



**Georgia Office**

## Press Release

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**Release Date:** May 6, 2004

**Contact:** Jim Hightower (404) 331-0100, ext. 215

**Release Number:** 04-20

**Internet Address:** <http://www.sba.gov/ga/>

### **Frederick E. O'Neal of Carrollton Named Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year in Georgia**

**CARROLLTON, Ga.**—Frederick E. O'Neal, an investment representative with Edward Jones & Company, has been selected the 2004 Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year for Georgia.

O'Neal received his SBA award today at a luncheon hosted by the Georgia Lenders Quality Circle. The event was held at the Cobb Galleria Centre. He was nominated for the statewide award by the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center in Carrollton.

O'Neal earned his undergraduate degree and Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of West Georgia. He joined Edward Jones & Company in 1988 and was named the firm's National Director of Minority Development in 1998.

Frederick O'Neal is a person who has fulfilled a commitment to support minority entrepreneurship," said Terri L. Denison, SBA Georgia District Director. "I'm very pleased that he will be recognized on Thursday with his statewide award."

"When I started with Edward Jones it wasn't easy," recalled O'Neal. "People were not use to seeing a black man standing at their door, asking them about their finances." Today, he handles investments for a client base of more than 1,000 people and received his firm's Managing Partner's Award in both 1999 and 2000.

In the minority community, O'Neal is credited with counseling many people on personal finance, business startups or existing business problems without pay. "Fred also fills a void so often found in rural communities, the need for a mentor and counselor with the prominence to help those in the minority community increase their economic presence," said Bill Deegan, Director of the SBDC Office at the University of West Georgia.

In other recognition, O'Neal was named the 2003 Small Business Person of the Year by the Carroll County Chamber. O'Neal has served as a director of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce and an investment instructor at the University of West Georgia.

O'Neal created the first African American Minority Business Expo in Carroll County that was designed to showcase local minority-owned businesses. He also is a board member of Ebony Inn Foundation, a non-profit group which focuses on the cultural enrichment of African American youth in the West Georgia area.

O'Neal also served on the development body that organized the Carroll County Infant Mortality Council, a group whose purpose is to reduce the rates of infant mortality with the Black population of the county.

O'Neal and his wife, the former Lillian R. Wilson, live in Carrollton with their two children, Wilson and Maya.

*Expo '04, the SBA's national small business conference, will be held in Orlando on May 19-21. For more information, please go to [www.sba.gov/50/Expo 2004](http://www.sba.gov/50/Expo 2004).*

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